

view species of *kausana*

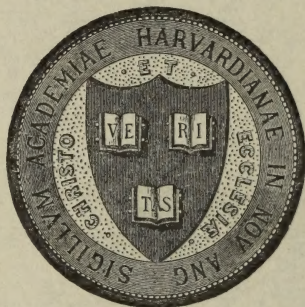
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January 27, 1914

THE BOSTON SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY.

A New Species of *Cuscus*.

By Milton J. Flood

What appears to be a new species of the genus *Cuscus*, has lately been brought from the interior of New Guinea. Two specimens were captured alive and brought into Cairns, North Queensland. One died, but, at last reports, the other was living there, (lat. 17° S.), and in perfect health.

Milton J. Flood, a member of the Society, now on a collecting trip for specimens of Natural History in that section, communicates the facts, and seems to be unable to find a specific name for it, in any of the descriptions of that family.

The ground color is white, with large tan-colored spots on the back, sides and feet, which are very distinctly defined. The colors on the head, neck and fore-shoulders are of a lighter shade than on the rest of the body, and the face is nearly ochre-colored. The tail is nearly two feet in length, and densely covered with hair, with the exception of about eight inches of the underside at the tip.

This animal, like the other species of the genus, has a dense fur, and its tenacity of life is wonderful. Wallace, in his "Malay Archipelago", mentions spe-

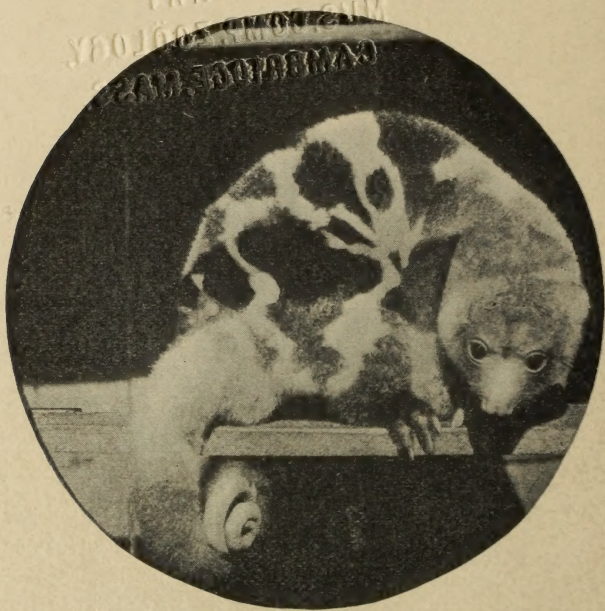
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cies of this animal, whose coat is so thick that it will resist the impact of shot, allowing it to just penetrate the skin, and thus doing the creature no harm. They will often live for hours after the spine has been dislocated or the brain pierced.

The ear is round and small, and almost concealed in the dense hair. The head is round and very wide



at the occiput, the sides of the face are wide, and the nasal brim short, giving a very short and round head as compared with other marsupial animals.

The eyes are light hazel in color, with vertical black pupils.

The female resembles the male in every way except that the color is white, with a light blanket of

cream color around the ribs and fore- shoulders.

The female did not live, and the skin has been mounted by a taxidermist.

Like all members of this genus, it is very quiet during the day, and in its wild state, at this time, it hides in the tallest trees, either in cavities or on large horizontal limbs. During the night it often comes down to the ground and is found on the lower limbs and the brushwood.

Its favorite food is leaves, buds and tender twigs, like the Opossum and Australian bear. These it will eat in preference to roots, seeds and nuts.

Most animals of this genus will shun water, but this specimen, when water is given to it, will wash its fore-paws like a human being, touching, however no other part of the body except the head, which it washes in the same manner as the cat, continuing the practise sometimes for an hour.

This species is found well into the interior, and one, an albino, was taken at an altitude of 4000 ft. above sea level.

The natives are very fond of the genus *Cuscus* as food, and Wallace can only account for the whole race not having been exterminated by the Malays and Papuans, by its habit of frequenting only the tallest trees, and by the interior being thinly populated.

Five months after its capture, its disposition was so surly that no one could touch it but its owner, Mr. Keating, who brought it south.

Further information in regard to this animal can be obtained of Mr. J. E. Keating, Empire Hotel, Cairns, North Queensland, Australia.

Mr. Flood leaves this season (1900) for New Guinea, and may procure specimens of this curious animal; letters may be forwarded him through his publishing agent.

FRANK A. BATES NATURALIST

Publisher of Scientific and Historical Books
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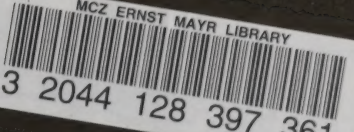
The following Bird-skins, with full data, collected by M. J. Flood, are for sale. Others are being received at intervals, and information will be furnished on application.

1	<i>Sterna Boysii</i>	Hawaiian Islands.
3	<i>Puffinus cunealus</i>	" "
2	<i>Gallinula sauricensis</i>	" "
2	<i>Phaeton æthereus</i>	" "
2	<i>Fulica americanus</i>	" "
2	<i>Totanus incanus</i>	" "
2	<i>Lophortyx californicus</i>	" "
	(introduced)	
2	<i>Strepsilas interpres</i>	" "
2	<i>Chrysomitris cæruleirostris</i>	" "
2	<i>Drupanis sanguinea</i>	" "
2	<i>Eulabis religiosa</i>	" "
2	<i>Turtus auritus</i>	" "
7	<i>Porzanula palmeri</i>	Layzan Islands
1	<i>Acrocephalus familiaris</i>	" "
1	<i>Himatione Fruthii</i>	" "

Also the skins, with skull and leg bones, of a pair of deer from Molokai. The buck has a fine pair of antlers.

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